



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Judiciary Committee Public Hearing 3-9-11

H.B. No. 6489 (Raised) An Act Requiring DNA Testing of Persons Arrested for the Commission of a Serious Felony

Dear Chairman Fox, Chairman Coleman, Ranking Members Hetherington and Kissel and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

I testify today in very strong support of HB 6489: An Act Requiring DNA Testing of Persons Arrested for the Commission of a Serious Felony. The purpose of this bill is to catch violent repeat offenders sooner. I believe that when this bill is passed it will aid in closing unsolved cold cases by requiring certain felony crime offenders to have their DNA screened against the DNA database.

I am honored to be able to support this raised bill. It is modeled after 'Katie's Law' that is being adopted nationally. Katie Sepich was brutally murdered in 2003 and her killer, under arrest for burglary in 2006, had his DNA matched as Katie's killer. Had DNA testing of arrestees been law in 2003, Katie's killer would have been caught much sooner, rather than in 2006, after committing another burglary. DNA matching will not only save lives by locking up dangerous criminals but also prevent repeat offenders from committing additional crimes. 24 other states and the federal government have similar laws that have proven that DNA matching works and can help save innocent lives

In summary, I am in complete agreement with Ms. Jayann Sepich, who you will from hear today. She is Katie's mother, founder of DNA Saves and a Katie's Law advocate. By collecting DNA from arrestees, law enforcement can identify criminals earlier and create more efficient investigation practices. Solving crimes sooner reduces costs associated with misdirected investigations. With a DNA match, law enforcement can quickly narrow in on the right suspect, saving untold work hours used in traditional investigations. This cost savings can then be redirected to other crimes where DNA is not available and traditional investigation techniques are the only means of solving the crime.

For your information, I also attach a brochure that further amplifies why we need to pass HB 6489.

I thank you for hearing me and ask you for favorable consideration of this raised bill and am open to any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Frank Nicastro, Assistant Majority Leader
79th House District
Bristol, CT



A word from John Walsh

“DNA legislation helps make our communities safer places to live. Don't let your state be the one that provides a safe haven for criminals. Every state can make a difference and save lives, and it starts with you.”

Thank you,

John Walsh
Host, America's Most Wanted
Co-Founder, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Update on Legal Challenges...

A federal court in California has denied a motion against the state's arrestee DNA law, remarking, "Put simply: identification means both who that person is and what that person has done... The more ways the government has to identify who someone is, the better chance it has of doing so accurately... what the person has done, is no less important... Plaintiffs have not demonstrated a likely infringement of their Fourth Amendment rights. Moreover, the government identifies public interests in (1) swiftly and accurately solving crimes, and (2) seeing the public's vote honored."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
HOW YOU CAN PASS KATIE'S LAW
IN YOUR STATE

WWW.DNASAVES.ORG

E-mail: jsepich@dnasaves.org

Or call Jayann Sepich at
575.361.1931 • 575.885.0715

State Legislators: PASS KATIE'S LAW

Katie Sepich, Raped & Murdered August 31, 2003

Why should your state
require DNA upon arrest?

☒ **SOLVE GOLD CASES**

More than 116,000 investigations in the US aided by the national DNA database

☒ **SAVE LIVES**

Arrestee DNA testing can prevent crimes by providing early identification of serial offenders

☒ **ABSOLVE THE INNOCENT**

Guarantees equal access to DNA testing for all felony arrests and minimizes wrongful incarcerations

☒ **MINIMIZE RACIAL BIAS**

Forensic DNA databasing is blind to race and ensures accurate identification of suspects